International workers get crash course in mountain living

By Kathryn Reed

Outside the college theater conversations were taking place about where each other is living on the South Shore, what country they are from and what their job is.

Being an international worker is what they have in common. With that designation also comes the unfamiliarity of living in a mountain town, not knowing how to get around, where things are, or the nuances of the ski industry vocabulary.

On Friday night, 122 workers filled Lake Tahoe Community College's theater to get a dose of reality about what the South Shore is all about.



Mauricio Travassos and Txai Santiago, both from Brazil, are excited to be working in South Lake Tahoe. Photo/Kathryn

Reed

Txai Santiago attended the free event put on by the Sierra Human Resources Association (SHRA) to better understand South Lake Tahoe and meet people. She is working in the rental shop at Sierra-at-Tahoe.

A fellow Brazilian, Mauricio Travassos, works at Sierra as a cashier in one of the restaurants. He said he came to Tahoe to live in the mountains and experience cold weather.

Friday's gathering attracted workers from Sierra, Kirkwood, Powder House and Heavenly Sports. Home for them is Chile, Brazil, Peru, Argentina, South Africa and Australia. Most are in their late teens or early 20s.

"Clearly they get a good orientation into their own resort's culture and the job, but they don't get to connect with kids from other countries," explained Laura Moriarty, president-elect of the nonprofit SHRA.

This is the second season the group has put on the orientations. Two North Shore events were in December. Between the three workshops, more than 400 workers were reached. Moriarty believes that's about 85 percent of the international workers.

Topics on Jan. 8 included:

Ski-town and Resort Terms 101

Living in and getting around the Lake Tahoe/Truckee Community

Ways to save money

Banking at Wells Fargo Bank

Common American Customs

Partying and Night Life

Fit for Work and Health and Safety

College Classes

But it went deeper – explaining what verbal and sexual harassment are, where free Internet access is, how to get around without a vehicle, what tipping is all about, rules about drinking alcohol, and what there is to do outside of work.

The college had a table explaining the classes and resources available during their short stay. Tahoe Regional Planning Agency had information as well and gave a short presentation about what it means to be a good steward of the land.

Fewer international workers are working at Lake Tahoe resorts compared to past years because more people living in the United States are applying for those same jobs.

Moriarty said there was a time when about 25 percent of resort's seasonal employees were from outside the United States. That percentage is down to 7.

"The main reason we hire international workers is it brings an international flavor to the resort,"Kirstin Cattell, Sierra's spokeswoman said.

In California, almost 20 percent of the tourists are from outside the country. With skiers-boarders being from all over the world, having a diverse work force adds to the international experience.

The workers want a world experience, too.

"It's better than I thought it would be," Santiago said of working and living in the States.

Charities continue to benefit from celeb golf tourney

By Kathryn Reed

Christmas is coming late to a number of charities on the South Shore â€“ and they are fine with that.

Carol Chaplin, executive director of Lake Tahoe Visitors Authority, has been making calls to let organizations know they are going to share $77,000.

The money is from last summerâ€™s celebrity golf tournament at Edgewood Tahoe in Stateline. American Century, the title sponsor of the annual event, and the Lance Armstrong Foundation are providing the funds. This is in addition to the $90,000 that was given shortly after the tournamentâ€™s conclusion.

â€œThey have a strong relationship with this community,â€ Chaplin said of the golf tournament organizers.

The initial cash was divvied up between the South Lake Tahoe Boys & Girls Club, Tahoe Youth & Family Services and Bread & Broth.

The latest checks will be written to a slew of entities. With the Armstrong Foundationâ€™s focus on cancer, the initial directive was for the cash to go to cancer related programs on the South Shore.

Barton Healthâ€™s mammogram screening, Relay for Life, the community clinicâ€™s pap smear program, and the Cancer League

will share $28,000.

The remaining $49,000 will be divided among CASA, South Lake Tahoe Womenâ€™s Center, Family Resource Center, Tahoe Arts Project, Christmas Cheer, South Tahoe and Whittell high schools, and Lake Tahoe and Douglas County education foundations.

South Shore Olympic reporter tells stories from 1960

By Kathryn Reed

â€œI was too naÃ¯ve to understand it was special,â€ Del Laine says. â€œI was excited to be there. The internationality of it.â€

Now, 50 years later, Laine appreciates the work she did as a journalist covering the Winter Olympics at Squaw Valley from Feb. 18-28, 1960.

She was 29 years old, with the byline Del Wright. *Lake Tahoe News* was an eight-column weekly newspaper that was transformed into a daily for two weeks during the Olympics at Squaw Valley. Flip Brandi owned the South Lake Tahoe paper at the time.



Squaw's Alex Cushing answers questions from South Lake Tahoe's Del Wright during the 1960 Olympics. Photo/Sarah Link

(The paper ceased to exist years ago â€“ but the name was resurrected last year as this online news source.)

Following the lead of *Sports Illustrated* writers kept Laine in the know of what to cover.

â€œIâ€™ll never forget the hockey team. They were the real miracle on ice,â€ Laine said. The United States won gold in 1960. The college athletes beat Canada, Russia and then Czechoslovakia. This was in the middle of the Cold War and the Eastern Bloc was expected to dominate the ice.

Laine remembers the â€œeggâ€ position â€“ something no one had seen a skier do before. We call it a tuck now. Jean Vuarnet of France is credited with creating the tuck position as he showed it off to the world on Siberia Bowl.

Laine talks about how the athletes all stayed in the village together, which was not something that had happened before or since. A camaraderie of sorts was evident.

She had access to Squaw Valley founder Alex Cushing, as well as the athletes â€“ winners and losers.

On some days seven Olympic stories covered the entire front page of *Lake Tahoe News*. Features about the athletes, that beef was the primary food served to them, the use of metal

skis for the first time, how the Europeans were skeptical of the timekeepersâ€™ abilities, the records that were smashed â€“ all of this was memorialized in the pages which are now tattered and a bit yellow.

Laine has other memorabilia from those days â€“ her press pass, items from *Sports Illustrated*, information distributed by the U.S. Olympic Committee, a calendar from Harrah's Club.

South Lake Tahoe had hoped to capitalize on the Olympics being on the North Shore, but that never transpired, Laine said.

It was a hectic time to be a reporter â€“ no laptops, no cell phones, no four-wheel drive. She remembers Highway 89 around Emerald Bay being closed once in those two weeks.

Laine and fellow *Lake Tahoe News* writer Jeanne Ireland would type their stories at Squaw, edit them on the drive back to the South Shore and have them cleaned up for the pressmen to convert their words into hot type.

Publisher's note: *Read Del Wright's reprinted synopsis of the 1960 Olympics on Jan. 15.*

Reaction to governor's budget proposal

Publisher's note: *The following was sent to the South Lake Tahoe City Council on Jan. 11 and is being printed here with City Manager Dave Jinken's permission.*

Mayor and Council:

The news for cities and our public does not look good in the Governorâ€™s proposed State budget. The article below from the League of Cities provides good insight.

Local revenues to operate transit systems that people locally depend on are at risk. Reducing funding for local transit also means higher cost for local residents and a diminished public transit option.

While we are trying to build an effective and efficient local transportation system, State government proposes to reduce funding for it as the City Council will hear this week.

In addition, the proposed budget continues to seek to illegally take local redevelopment funding for a second year, but the City Council has strongly supported action by the California Redevelopment Association to fight the theft of these local funds in court, and court action by CRA is pending. Last year, the State lost one taking case. Our hope and expectation is that they will lose this one as well.

The Governor proposes to slow down the payment of certain local funds to cities (HUTA, gas tax). This approach does not help to stimulate the local and State economy. Cities will be less likely to commit what funds they have for street repair etc if they are not going to get the funds in a timely fashion. It just doesnâ€™t make sense.

We will evaluate the impact on our residents of the Governorâ€™s proposed Emergency Response Initiative surcharge on residential and commercial property insurance plans. With an ever-present fire danger in the Basin, we must stay focused on initiatives that promote and support fire suppression and fuel reduction.

There are some job creation initiatives and funding in the proposed budget that we need to examine how we might benefit

from it. With a South Shore unemployment rate estimated to be at 15 percent help is needed to build a strong and diverse private employment sector of our local economy. Our efforts to build a strong local economy are impeded by a State government that attempts to take away the fruits of our labor.

As stated below, the Governor is proposing funding State parks with a proposal to use revenues from increased oil drilling of the Santa Barbara coast. Lat year this controversial proposal was not approved.

In summary, City government, local residents, and business and labor must keep â€œour proverbial eyesâ€ on the state budget ball. We have much at stake. Balancing the State budget on the backs of local government like ours that provides essential services to the community is folly at best. We need to vigorously monitor the development of the state budget, continue strong advocacy in Sacramento to protect local revenues, and do what we can to further protect local government revenues on a statewide basis. We must stay informed and keep united with other local governments and private sector advocates to protect local revenues an protect the services we provide to the 24,000 people who reside here.

State officials have a tough job. Taking away local revenues that we depend on to provide essential services to our community to balance a broken State budget system is not the answer. Structural reform of budgeting and State government are needed.

Thank you for your leadership in the past. Staff and I will stay focused on this important matter. We will remain vigilant.

Respectfully,

David M. Jinkens, MPA, city manager

2010-01-10 League Continues to Analyze Budget

The budget released today by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger eliminates most funding ($1.5 billion) for transit agencies across California and destabilizes other critical transportation funding sources by proposing to remove the sales tax on gasoline in exchange for additional excise taxes through a complicated tax swap scheme.

“This is just the kind of Byzantine proposal that we’ve seen from the state over and over again in recent years that erodes voter confidence in state government,” said Chris McKenzie, League of California Cities executive director. “Destabilizing local infrastructure funding in this way puts California on the wrong track to reinvigorate the economy.”

As recently as 2006, voters went to the ballot box and supported the protection of gas tax revenues for all transportation purposes including transit. Recent court decisions have also clarified that prior legislative attempts to raid transit dollars were illegal. Public transit is a vital component of California’s transportation system and for many residents it is their only mode of transportation.

Cities remain greatly concerned that transportation funds that are proposed to be allocated to local governments from the additional excise tax would be more vulnerable to future legislative raids. Just last year, the Governor proposed taking almost $1 billion of transportation excise taxes from local governments to fund state budget obligations. This proposal was narrowly defeated in the final hours.

The League has reviewed the components of the budget for potential city impacts. The Governor proposes to resolve a $19.9 billion state budget deficit ($6.9 billion in FY 2009-10, and $13.3 in FY 2010-11) with $8.5 billion in cuts, pursuing $6.9 billion in additional federal funding to get a “fair share” for the state, and $3.9 billion through various funding swaps, fees and other mechanisms.

Below is the staff's preliminary analysis of issues of importance to cities.

Transportation

Proposition 42 and HUTA. The Governor proposes to eliminate the 5 percent (temporarily 6 percent through FY 2010-11) sales tax on gas (Proposition 42), and partially replaces the funding by increasing the excise tax on gas (Highway Users Tax Account or HUTA) by 10.8 cents. This would bring the total excise tax to 28.8 cents per gallon, whereas the existing combined Prop 42 and HUTA taxes currently total 34.4 cents per gallon.

The League has not yet reviewed language for this proposal, but it has been represented by the administration as not changing the current distribution of HUTA, funding levels for the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) or local streets and roads in FY 2010-11.

The new 10.8 cent excise tax would be allocated as follows (in FY 2010-11):

* $629 million for the STIP;

* $629 million for local streets and roads (identical to Proposition 42 amounts); and

* $603 million for the General Fund for transportation bond debt service.

It is uncertain how the new distribution will impact local funding in future years. Since the fund source would no longer be from the state sales tax on gasoline, these funds would no longer be protected by Prop. 42 and Prop. 1A (2006). Instead, the Governor's administration maintains that these funds would be protected by Article XIX of the state constitution – the same law that protects current 18 cent per gallon Motor Vehicle Fuel Excise tax allocations.

The Governor's budget summary does indicate that the excise tax will be adjusted in future years to cover future bond debt.

Although there is no mention in the budget proposal, the Administration assures us the proposal only affects the 5 percent (temporarily 6 percent) state sales & use tax rate and would leave Prop 172, county realignment, locally adopted add-on rates and the local Bradley Burns rates in place on sales of gasoline

Transit. This funding swap has the greatest immediate impact on transit operations. Prop. 42 funds the Public Transit Account and the Spillover are both be eliminated under this proposal. This means a reduction of transit funding of $1.5 billion in FY 2010-11.

The Governor proposes to fund capital projects for transit:

* $350 million in Prop 1B funding for local transit projects; and

* $581.4 million in High Speed Rail bonds and $375 million in Federal ARRA funding to continue environmental planning and preliminary engineering, and to begin purchasing land.

However, none of these sources are available for transit operations.

Public Contracting. The budget proposes to shift $12.5 million in costs to local agencies for developing Cal-Trans Project Initiation Documents for local projects.

Redevelopment Agency Property Tax Shift. The Redevelopment Agency property tax shift proposed last year for FY 2010-11 budget remains. The Governor proposes to shift $350 million in redevelopment agency property tax increment revenues in FY 2010-11 to fund county trial courts. This is consistent with the approved FY 2009-10 Budget and is the subject of legal

challenge. However, the use of the funds to supplant state funding of trial courts is new.

State Cash Flow and Delays of Local Payments. Projects that the cash flow difficulties faced in recent years will be substantially reduced, particularly if the budget solutions offered are adopted. However, the Governor's proposal states that some payment deferrals will still be needed. These are not specified, but city funds affected by these payment deferrals in recent years include monthly payments of local HUTA funds and Prop. 42 state sales tax on gasoline funds for streets and roads.

State Mandate Reimbursement. The Governor proposes to again delay payments to local governments owed for mandate costs prior to FY 2004-05. This funding was deleted from the last two fiscal years' budgets.

Public Safety

COPS and Booking Fees. Governor's proposal would maintain the formula established in the FY 2009-10 budget that created the Local Public Safety Account providing funding for COPS programs, booking fee reimbursement, rural sheriffs, juvenile probation, and crime prevention programs. The account was created by shifting the program funds from a direct General Fund allocation to a 0.15 percent carve-out from the Vehicle License Fee (VLF).

The account would receive $442 million in FY 2010-11, representing a $26 million increase from FY 2009-10. These projections fall short of the $500 million allocation made from the General Fund in previous budget years. This funding, however, would expire at the end of FY 2011 when the VLF increase is scheduled to sunset.

The Department of Finance did note that revenues would likely continue to trickle in past the expiration date because vehicle owners have been making late payments on their vehicle

registrations.

Emergency Response Initiative. The Governor reintroduced for a third year his Emergency Response Initiative that places a surcharge on all residential and commercial property insurance plans statewide to fund the state's emergency response capabilities. The surcharge amount of 4.8 percent would result in an annual appropriation of $200 million towards enhancements for CAL FIRE, the California Emergency Management Agency (formerly Office of Emergency Services), the Military Department, and assistance to local agencies first responders in support of the state's mutual aid system.

Corrections. The Governor proposes cutting the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation budget by $1.2 billion for the second year in a row. As outlined, this would be partially achieved by changing sentencing for non-violent, non-serious and non-sexual felony offenses so that county jails can retain a segment of inmates that would otherwise be sent to state prison. (Drug possession is an example felony that would carry a one-year jail sentence in lieu of prison.)

The budget would achieve an estimated $811 million in savings from reductions to inmate health expenses. The savings are anticipated to be achieved largely by state contracts with private providers for medical and administrative services.

Other savings would be achieved through changes enacted in last year's corrections budget that are currently underway including reforms that placed non-violent, low-risk parolees on summary parole with no direct state supervision, enhanced credit earnings for training program completion, and the cutting non-court mandated inmate rehabilitation services.

The FY 2010-11 budget proposal also assumes an $880 million reduction for the General Fund achieved by obtaining federal funds to pay for the incarceration of alien criminals in state prisons. This is roughly the amount the federal government has

yet to reimburse California for providing alien inmate services.

Other Public Safety Savings and Reductions

* Department of Justice (DOJ) Forensic Labs. To cover the expense of the DOJ forensic labs, serving local law enforcement agencies without their own lab facilities, current penalty assessments levied on fines will increase from $1 to $3 dollars. In the Governor's 2009-10 budget, he proposed shifting the cost of DOJ forensic labs to local agencies by charging a direct fee for each service. This was dropped later.

* California Highway Patrol (CHP). The budget proposal would provide $17.8 million to the CHP for 180 new officer positions to increase road patrols and provide quicker response times to accidents and call for assistance.

* Automated Speed Enforcement Revenue. This proposal would provide $337.9 million in revenue from a new speed enforcement program based on using red light cameras to identify and fine persons speeding through intersections. The proceeds would be used to alleviate the General Fund deficit and provide $41 million towards trial court security.

Housing/Land Use

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Streamlining. The Business, Transportation, and Housing Agency would be authorized through the Governor's proposed budget to select 20 projects from around the state for job creation and capital investment. The selected projects would be exempt from any challenge to the certification of the environmental review under CEQA. The exemption would be valid for 12 months.

Elimination of Office of Planning and Research (OPR) The Governor's budget proposes to eliminate the Governor's OPR and moving many of the existing functions, such as the CEQA

Clearinghouse and the general plan guidelines, to other agencies such as the Department of Resources and Housing and Community Development (its difficult to tell from the language provided exactly which departments will receive various functions).

Environment

Water: The Governor proposed an increase of $70.5 million (47 new positions) to implement the comprehensive water package passed in November, 2009. These funds and positions reflect the establishment of the Delta Stewardship Council and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy, as well as funding the development of the new Delta Plan outlined in the recent legislation.

Additionally, the Governor proposed a reduction of $6.4 million in funding to the State Water Resources Control Board. These cuts would be offset by increases to existing fees for several water quality regulatory programs, including National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System programs, Water Rights and Irrigated Lands.

In addition to fee increases by the State Water Board, the Governor proposed an additional $5.5 million (32 new positions) as a part of the recent water package implementation. These monies will help establish and augment water investigation and enforcement units at the State Water Board.

Parks. The Governor is also proposing to fund state parks by reviving a plan that failed last summer to raise money with additional oil drilling off the Santa Barbara coast. This proposal would generate $100 million this fiscal year and $1.8 billion over the next 14 years, according to the administration.

Beverage Container Recycling Fund. Finally, the Governor is proposing a $54.8 million in FY 2009-10, and a $98.2 million

loan repayment in FY 2010-11, to the Beverage Container Recycling Fund. This is part of a comprehensive proposal by the administration which includes eliminating continuously funded grant payments to cities and counties for recycling in lieu of annually appropriating these funds.

Job Creation, Training, & Retention through Employer Incentives

$230 million is proposed to be allocated to the Employment Training Panel (ETP):

* $140 million would be available to employers and training providers that deliver training for unemployed and underemployed individuals, as well as for employment expansion and job retention;

* $90 million would be available to provide a $3,000 incentive to employers to hire and retain an unemployed individual. Until there are further details the League is uncertain as to whether this proposal will apply to local governments.

The League will continue to review the Governor's budget proposals for potential local city impacts in detail as language becomes available.

Protesters return to Broc's



By Kathryn Reed

A half dozen protesters came and went from outside Broc’s Puppies on Sunday.

The atmosphere between them and workers at the South Lake Tahoe store were friendly, with coffee and cookies brought out to the sign carrying group.

The protesters were startled at one point when a firecracker came flying out of a vehicle and landed about 5 feet from the nearest person.

Protesters contend the store sells sick puppies acquired them from puppy mill breeders.

The store says its breeders are legitimate and has a policy to pay some veterinarian bills when appropriate.

A group which wants the store to close plans to go before the City Council at its meeting at Lake Tahoe Airport on Jan. 12.

The store must close in spring 2011 because of a city ordinance that became law last year.

Anderson snags win in snowboarding Grand Prix

By USSA

MAMMOTH – After six days of sunny snowboarding, the Sprint U.S. Snowboarding Grand Prix closed up shop at Mammoth Mountain on Sunday with Jamie Anderson (South Lake Tahoe, CA) and Chaz Guldemond (Reno, NV) winning the Paul Mitchell Progression Session.

Under bluebird skies and balmy temperatures, Anderson led the women followed by Isabelle Lalive (Breckenridge, CO) in second and Molly Wilson (Basalt, CO) third.



Jamie Anderson

Anderson threw out a frontside 3, back 180, tailpress to a 270 out of the box, ollie onto the down rail, indie over the step down, frontside 7 off the last kicker.

For Anderson, being able to throw a 7 was a huge step forward in her progression.

“I’m so happy. I don’t usually do 7s. I’ve been working on them, but they’re not one of my consistent tricks. So I was proud of myself to actually step it up and try because it wasn’t a guarantee that I was going to land,” Anderson said. “I was risking it. The first one I kind of fell on, but the second one I stomped, so I’m pumped.”

After landing her second set solidly, Anderson is ready to take on the rest of the season with a new level of confidence.

“I definitely want to step up my game and do bigger tricks at all the events this winter with X Games and the Dew Tours,” Anderson said. “Knowing that I have this trick dialed is a really good feeling.”

On the men’s side Guldemond put down cab 9, back12, half cab, 50/50 to back 3 out, gap to 50/50, backside rodeo, switchback 9.

Guldemond led with Tyler Flanagan (Encinitas, CA) in second

and Brett Esser (Silverthorne, CO) in third.

For Guldemond, being on the podium, let alone winning, was a big step towards the success he's been missing the last few months.

"I work really hard at what I do. Since last spring I haven't been on the podium, let alone top 5, so I'm stoked to be back up here," Guldemond said.

As for the second best reason for throwing a winning run, Guldemond has the spectators in mind.

"I just like to put on a good show for all the people around and it definitely boosts the confidence," Guldemond.

Both Guldemond and Anderson now plan to fine tune their slope skills at the Winter Dew Tour, which will be Jan. 14-17 at Snowbasin resort in Utah.

As for the Grand Prix, it takes a little break prior to the two event finale at Park City Mountain Resort Jan. 22-23.

Men

1. Chaz Guldemond, Reno, NV, 49.40

2. Tyler Flanagan, Encinitas, CA, 46.70

3. Brett Esser, Silverthorne, CO, 45.30

4. Spencer Link, Corona, CA, 43.30

5. Ryan Stassel, Anchorage, 42.00

Women

1. Jamie Anderson, South Lake Tahoe, CA, 48.40

2. Isabelle Lalive, Breckenridge, CO, 36.20

3. Molly Wilson, Basalt, CO, 34.20

4. Lynn Neil, Ogden, UT, 32.40

5. Kaitlyn Farrington, Sun Valley, ID, 31.60

Lousy weather hinders U.S. aerialists

By USSA

CALGARY – The U.S. Freestyle Ski Team battled weather Sunday as it wrapped up three days of competition in Calgary Sunday with Emily Cook (Belmont, VT) finishing sixth and Dylan Ferguson (Amesbury, MA) seventh in World Cup aerials.

Chinese athletes Zongyang Jia and Nina Li won the event in what U.S. Freestyle Ski Team Aerials Coach Matt Christiansen said was changing weather, poor snow conditions and some of the lowest scores he has ever seen. Bright spots were few, but the performance of 15-year-old Ashley Caldwell (Lake Placid, NY) in her first World Cup brightened things on a difficult weather day.

“There was a weather change. No one was hitting good takeoffs, the snow turned into sugar. It wasn’t that hard packed snow we were aiming for,” Christiansen said. “The whole women’s and men’s events were not good just really bad. Not just from performance, but iIt was the lowest scoring semi-finals I have ever seen in my 12 years on the World Cup.”

In the men’s competition Ferguson was followed for U.S. results by Jeret “Speedy” Peterson (Boise, ID). According to Christiansen the two had the same trick on the first run and were in contention, but Mother Nature had different plans.

World Champion Ryan St. Onge (Winter Park, CO) also struggled with the slow snow, slapping back onto the hill and failing to qualify for finals.

The story was the same for the women who struggled with conditions.

“Emily [Cook; Belmont, MA] had a great first jump, but on the second jump she got caught in the sludgy snow and her jump wasn’t a very nice jump,” Christiansen said. “Ashley [Calldwell]; Lake Placid, NY] just slapped back on her second jump.”

The Team will be in front of the hometown crowd with a long track record of success. Up next for the team is the Visa Freestyle International at Deer Valley Resort Jan. 14-16 with night finals Friday Jan. 15 and a two-year win streak from Peterson and St. Onge.where he hopes the team will be able to find success again.

Olympic spots were wrapped up in December’s Olympic Trials in Steamboat Springs, CO by Peterson and Lacy Schnoor (Draper, UT). But the rest of the team is wide open.

Calgary, Jan. 10, Aerials

Men

1. Zongyang Jia, China, 253.40

2. Anton Kushnir, Belarus, 244.60

3. Alexei Grishin, Belarus, 230.73

4. Timofei Slivets, Belarus, 224.17

5. Stanislav Kravchuk, Ukrane, 213.22

–

7. Dylan Ferguson, Amesbury, MA, 206.27

12. Jeret Peterson, Boise, ID, 124.34

25. Ryan St. Onge, Winter Park, CO, 85.18

28. Scotty Bahrke, Tahoe City, CA, 78.73

Women

1. Nina Li, China, 195.63

2. Evelyne Leu, Switzerland, 178.99

3. Xinxin Guo, China, 167.73

4. Xin Zhang, China, 165.14

5. Lydia Lassila, Australia, 164.81

–

6. Emily Cook, Belmont, MA, 157.91

11. Ashley Caldwell, Lake Placid, NY, 133.86

16. Jana Lindsey, Black Hawk, SD, 63.80

18. Lacy Schnoor, Sandy, UT, 57.10

Squaw's Holland wins boardercross in Austria

By Lindsey Sine, USSA

BAD GASTEIN, Austria – It wasn't a question of if, as much as when Nate Holland (Squaw Valley, CA) and Lindsey Jacobellis (Stratton, VT) were going to shred their way to a podium. That

question was answered Sunday as both won the snowboardcross World Cup in Austria.

“This totally amps me for the Olympics â€“ it’s my ticket to Vancouver! ” said Holland, who wore a 2006 jersey under his racing suit for luck. “I dropped the hammer and survived. It was a course which I like â€“ with a lot of body contact. And I know how to play this game”



Nate
Holland

Holland led, followed in second by Pierre Vaultier of France and Mario Fuchs of Austria in third.

For Jacobellis, the win was much anticipated and comes with a bit of relief and a lot of excitement.

“I’m stoked. I definitely needed that. I’ve been in kindof a little slump lately, and this felt great,” Jacobellis said. “It takes off a lot of the pressure that this has happened. It supports my confidence and helps me go into the next one.”

Joining Jacobellis on the podium were Helene Olafsen of Norway in second and Switzerland’s Sandra Frei in third.

According to the X Games gold medalist, a huge part of the race was being able to make it through a difficult first bank turn.

“I was having trouble with the first bank turn because there was so much g force going in and the pressure all builds up at the end. For finals I was worried about that and thought if I just give it a little more belly of room I won’t have so much

pressure," Jacobellis said. "It's a sketchy thing to do because you're opening up the door for someone else, but I felt like I had a good holeshot."

And, of course, someone tried to make the pass. If it weren't for some quick maneuvering and patience, Jacobellis could have gone down.

"Helene [Olafsen, Norway] tried to come inside and she buckled at the waist, and almost crashed into me. I grabbed her and picked her up so she didn't fall because it would have taken me out, too," Jacobellis said. "So then I was just shadowing her down through the next turn and over the jump. But she got squirley going over the rollers and that's when I took the opportunity to pass her on the left side. It was smooth sailing from there."

And, as a special gift for her win, Jacobellis got to hear the "Star Spangled Banner" twice.

"They had to play the national anthem twice for me. I had to go up and get my stuff from the start, so they played it twice while I came down," Jacobellis said.

While the spotlight was on Holland and Jacobellis, two other Americans cracked the top 10. Nick Baumgartner (Iron River, MI) was eighth in the men's, as was Ski and Snowboard Club Vail rider Faye Gulini (Salt Lake City).

Two events remain in the Olympic qualifying period and no spots have been mathematically clinched. The World Cup heads to Switzerland Friday with a final event in Canada Jan. 21 before the team is named Jan. 25.

Bad Gastein, Austria, Jan. 10, Snowboardcross

Men

1. Nate Holland, Squaw Valley, CA

2. Pierre Vaultier, France

3. Mario Fuchs, Austria

4. Markus Schairer, Austria

5. Tony Ramoin, France

—

8. Nick Baumgartner, Iron River, MI

19. Shaun Palmer, South Lake Tahoe, CA

20. Graham Watanabe, Sun Valley, ID

24. Ross Powers, Okemo, VT

26. Jonathan Cheever, Saugus, MA

33. Pat Holland, Squaw Valley, CA

52. Mick Dierdorff, Steamboat Springs, CO

54. Jason Smith, Basalt, CO

56. Seth Wescott, Sugarloaf, ME

Women

1. Lindsey Jacobellis, Stratton, VT

2. Helene Olafsen, Norway

3. Sandra Frei, Switzerland

4. Nelly Moenne Loccoz, France

5. Mellie Francon, Switzerland

—

8. Faye Gulini, Salt Lake City

16. Callan Chythlook Sifsof, Girdwood, AK

TRPA instituting furlough days

Tahoe Regional Planning Agency is attempting to save $100,000 with six scheduled furlough days starting this week.

This comes on the heels of having shutdown Dec. 24-Jan. 3.

Nevada is cutting its contribution to the bi-state regulatory agency, applications are less than robust and investment income is off, so TRPA needs to find a way to save.

The furlough days are:

Jan. 15

Feb. 12

March 12

April 5

May 7

June 11

STHS athletic realignment

Don Borges, South Tahoe High School athletic director, reports that STHS is scheduled to compete in the 4A for the 2010-11 athletic season.

On Monday, he will be in Winnemucca to observe the 3A-2A AD meeting and their discussion about realignment for next year.

On Tuesday, the NIAA is expected to send him the proposal and LTUSDâ€™s options for realignment.